Contraction of Co.

# edeye

Friday
DECEMBER 20, 2013

#### \* FREE \*

A Chicago Tribune publication

Oscar Isaac stars in "Inside Liewyn Davis," opening Friday.

# ()()()() AS F()[]K

Did someone say Oscar? Yes, and not just because it's his first name 18-19

Words are, like, whatever 3

QBs: Bear are they now? 10

This Italian is a stunner 36



#### A VERY SURLY CATSMAS **Northdown Cafe and Taproom**

3244 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-697-7578

Reps from Minnesota's Surly Brewing Company stop by to celebrate the season of Krampus-and big cats-at this fundraiser where partial proceeds from your \$6-\$10 nurchase of the dozen featured beers on tan benefit the Wildlife Sanctuary. 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. No cover.

#### **CHRISTMAS VACATION' BASH** Crossina

2548 N. Southport Ave. 773-327-4900

Yule celebrate the tackiest holiday ever—as inspired by the 1989 National Lampoon film-with a themed costume contest where your rendition of a Griswold family character could win you a \$100 gift card and drink specials. 8-11 p.m. Saturday. No cover.

#### **GRAND OPENING** Sportsman's Club

948 N. Western Ave. 872-206-8054

The rebirth of this neighborhood tavern features the original art deco bar plus a backyard, an amaro liqueur machine, carry-out liquors and a bar goods shop. The daily-changing spirits menu includes the \$8 Sportsman Cocktail. 5 p.m.-2 a.m. Friday and Sunday; 5 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. Cash only.



#### **HOLIDAY TREATS** Dinkel's Bakery and Cafe

3329 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-281-7300 Take home a loaf of stollen fruit cake made from Joseph Dinkel's 1922 recipe (\$24.95) or a yule log (\$25.95). Spend \$25 and receive an envelope containing a gift that can be redeemed in January.

6 a.m.-7 p.m. Friday; 6 a.m.-5 p.m.

Saturday; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

#### **BITTER BETTY BAZAAR Innertown Pub**

1935 W. Thomas St. 773-235-9795

Grab last-minute gifts from 10 local vendors featuring spices, vegan bath and body products, vintage glassware and more. Sip while you shop with \$6 cocktails including peppermint schnapps hot chocolate, Irish coffee and bloody marys from a full bloody mary bar. Noon-6 p.m. Sunday. No cover.



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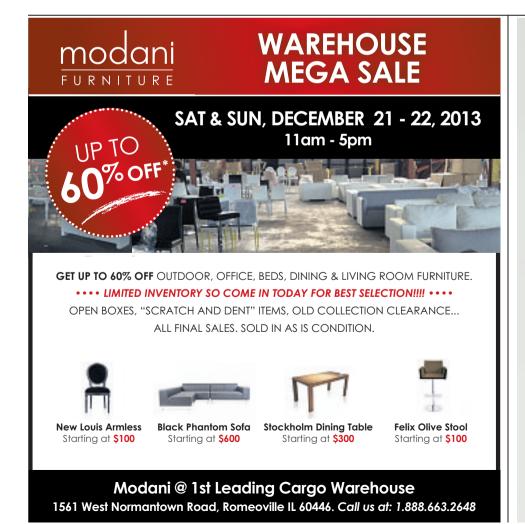
#### A SIB OF THE TRIB

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REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Nominate your favorite bartender for RedEye's Best Bartender competition at redeyechicago.com/bartender.







**22% LIKE** 

**2% WERE** 14% JUST SAYIN' **UNDECIDED** 

**6% OBVIOUSLY** 

18% YOU KNOW ...

TOP5

**38% WHATEVER** 

Americans are so fed up with these words...

#### Reuters

Ugh, whatever.

Hands down, no word grates on Americans more than that word, a public opinion survey says.

The casual "whatever" was rated the most annoying word by 38 percent of 1,173 adults surveyed in early December by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion, based in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. That is up from 32 percent a year earlier, pollsters said. What's more, "whatever" has topped the annoying word charts for five straight years.

11% GRIDLOCK

"The word can be very dismissive and rude,"

said Mary Griffith, media director for Marist. "It's a put-down to some extent, and it can signal to the other person that what they are saying is not important."

Marist began polling on annoying words five years ago. The word choices are provided to the respondents based on Marist research and prior surveys, Griffith said. While most Marist surveys focus on politics, the poll on annoying words is enlightening, she said.

"We like to keep a finger on the pulse of popular culture," Griffith said. **10% FISCAL CLIFF** 

**LEAST FAVORITE POLITICAL WORDS?** 

**4% WERE UNDECIDED** 

**4% SEQUESTRATION** 

**30% SHUTDOWN** 

**41% OBAMACARE** 

REDEYE ILLUSTRATION

# I'll never forget you, Dominick's



Kate

Dear Ukrainian Village Dominick's,

I'm not sure how to say goodbye. You've changed so much lately; it's like I don't even know you. Your shelves are stripped bare. The cereal aisle looks like a mashup between "The Walking Dead" and "Supermarket Sweep." Remember all the good times? The \$1 Greek vogurt sales? That super friendly cashier? Those are the memories I'll try to hold onto when you're gone.

I mean, sure, there were rough patches. Why did you stop offering free cheese samples on Saturday afternoons? I'm sorry I blew up like I did. I just really liked the cheese samples.

What about all the weeknights when I was exhausted after

work and trying to buy some goddamn quinoa to make dinner and I had to wait for 20 minutes to use self-checkout because only one of your scanners ever works? Or how your Redbox has only the wackest movies in stock and none of them on Blu-ray? You could be so insensitive sometimes. I have needs too, Dominick's.

Overall, though, we had a solid run for the year-plus that I lived nearby. You saw me at my worst: hung over, sweatpants on, eyes rimmed with red as I stumbled toward the coconut water display. Yet you never judged. And you supported me in my accomplishments. Your organic produce section helped me put together some great dinner parties—remember the awesome grilled squash from July?—and you even had a Starbucks inside where I could treat myself to a latte on the weekends.

I hope you find happiness outside of Chicago—city life isn't for everyone. Maybe I could even come visit you wherever you land, you know, just to see how you're doing. No pressure, though, since I think we'll both need our space in the beginning.

I'm sorry you had to find out about Mariano's the way you did, through rumors and social media. Believe me, I didn't like how people were saying it's "replacing you." I mean, physically it is, and sure, it's going to be new and shiny and I hear it has a fantastic meat counter and a bigger bakery selection and—yeah, sorry.

No matter what new grocery chain comes along, I promise not to forget you and your florescent gaze. You might hear from mutual friends that I'm shopping at Mari-

ano's now, and I need you to be OK with that. I've moved on, Dominick's, but it wasn't really my choice.

I wish you the best, and I hope that if we run into each other somewhere, you'll be happy for me. I'm retiring my Dominick's savings card keychain now, since we're going our separate Safeways.

Fondly, Kate

KATE BERNOT IS REDEYE'S NIGHTLIFE REPORTER. SHE OCCASIONALLY BOUGHT DOMINICK'S OUT OF CLUB SODA, KBERNOTI/TRIBUNE, COM







We want to highlight one Twitter user in particular on Fridays for their entertainment during the workday. This week's featured Twitter machine(s): @NoradSanta, the Twitter account that shares updates from the everpopular Norad Santa Tracker

Want to keep up with Santa's voyage in real-time? This Twitter is mildly boring right now, yes (I mean, how many photos of dogs wearing antlers can you look at before you get bored?), but come Christmas Eve, things really get fired up.

Are you following? You should be. Here's why. Suggest someone you think we should feature by sending a tweet to @JessicaGalliart. JESSICA GALLIART, REDEVES OCIAL MEDIA LADY

#### No matter how much of a monster you are, Norad is always welcoming:

Naughty or nice, you're welcome at the NORAD Holiday Hub. Check it out now.

#### Multi-lingual:

Boze Narodzenie! #Santa just arrived in Krakow Poland! #NORAD

#### Does a great job of keeping count:

#Santa has just delivered his 4,336,000,000 billionth Christmas Present! #NORAD

#### Jokes!

Looks like #Santa is flying over the Sahara. Hope he brought water for the reindeer! #NORAD

#### Money-conscious and economically sound:

Zero tax dollars are used for tracking Santal

#### And apparently a geography buff:

#NORAD spotted #Santa over Vilnius, Lithuania, in the geographical center of Europe!













# LIVE BANDS

#### **THURSDAYS 9PM-12AM**

**DEC. 5TH** HAIRBANGERS BALL

**DEC. 12TH** WEDDING BANNED

**DEC. 19TH 7TH HEAVEN** 

**DEC. 26TH** HI INFIDELITY

#### FRIDAYS 9PM-12AM

**DEC. 6TH** AMERICAN ENGLISH

**DEC. 13TH AFRODISIACS** 

**DEC. 20TH INFINITY** 

**DEC. 27TH LOUNGE PUPPETS** 

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### Chicago 3531 Get wet











Police released an alert saying officers would make roadside car safety stops on the Near North Side over the weekend.



Marine Corps League Commandant Alfred Kolodziej haufs in toys collected for Toys for Tots on Thursday in Chicago. Donated toys are being sorted at the Joseph J. McCarthy Marine Corps Reserve Center. There is a shortage of toys for ages 10-13. CHUCK BERMANTRIBUNE

### Tween toys running low

#### Surge in gift requests has left charity short on donations

#### **Chicago Tribune**

Boxes and black bags overflowed from the warehouse at the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Training Center on Thursday morning. There were wagons and rattles for o- to 2-year-olds, Barbies and Tonka Trucks for ages 3 to 5, scooters and remote-controlled helicopters for ages 6 to 9.

Then in the far left corner sat about eight boxes, half-empty, designated for 10- to 13-year-olds.

Toys for Tots made a last-minute appeal this week on behalf of the tweens who are often overlooked in annual drives to give gifts to needy children. While donors responded generously over the past few days with board games, soccer balls, bicycles and maybe even the occasional MP3 player, organizers don't know yet if it will be enough to fill the need.

"Last year we did" get what was needed, said Marine Corps Staff Sgt. George Dixon, who coordinates the charity for the Chicago area, "This year, I don't know yet. It's gonna come down to the wire."

This year, the U.S. Marine Corps, which runs the charity in Cook County, received an estimated 350,000 requests for gifts, compared with about 250,000 last year. Dixon said he does not know what caused the increase, except perhaps a still-recovering economy and an increased awareness of the Toys for Tots program.

"We've had more gifts this year, but there is also more need this year than we've ever had," Dixon said.

#### WANT TO GIVE?

On Thursday, new donations were still coming in as volunteers and Marine Corps members distributed gifts. Distribution will wrap up Saturday morning, but donations still can be made to the reserve unit at 3034 W. Foster Ave. until Friday evening. "We get them out-depending on when Christmas falls-in enough time to land beneath the tree," Marine Corps Staff Sgt. George Dixon said.

#### \$10K raised to help slain cyclist's family

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

In less than 10 days, more than \$10,000 was raised to help the fam-



ily of cyclist Hector Avalos, who was hit and killed while riding bike on his way home from work.

Friends

and family set up a Give Forward online fundraiser Dec. 8, two days after Avalos, 28, was killed when a van hit him in the 2500 block of West Ogden Avenue in Douglas Park.

Originally the goal was to raise \$6,000, and donors reached that goal in less than 48 hours, said Vanessa Bly, who attended Jones College Prep with Avalos. The goal then was increased to \$10,000 to help pay for funeral expenses. By Monday, they reached that goal.

"We never thought we would get \$1,000," Bly said.

Avalos' friends are hosting an event after the last Critical Mass bike ride of the year Dec. 27 to honor Avalos and raise awareness of bike safety. The event, which asks for a \$5 donation, will be held at Junior's Sports Bar, 2058 W. Cermak Road.

LVIVANCO@TRIBUNE.COM | @LVIVANCO

#### **EXPRESS LINES**

- » A woman was blinded in a savage attack in Rogers Park on Thursday by a man who stabbed her in the eyes and face, then cut the tendons in both her wrists and a major artery in her leg, police said.
- » Larry Lujack, the legendary Chicago radio personality known as "Superjock" and "Uncle Lar," died Wednesday in New Mexico, his wife said. He was 73, tribune

#### THE LAST

### **BEFORE CHRISTMAS**

**TO 2AM SUNDAY!** SHOP 7AM SATURDAY, DEC. 21

ALSO SHOP TODAY FROM 7AM TO 2AM SATURDAY HOURS MAY VARY BY STORE

FREE SHIPPING AT MACYS.COM WITH \$99 ONLINE PURCHASE NO PROMO CODE NEEDED; EXCLUSIONS APPLY GET IT THERE BY CHRISTMAS WHEN YOU ORDER BY 11:59PM EST ON 12/21 AND CHOOSE STANDARD SHIPPING SEE MACYS.COM FOR DETAILS

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**DOORBUSTER EXTRA 20% OFF** JEANS Doorbuster 19.60-39.99 Reg. \$49-69.50, after 1pm: 24.50-49.99. Status denim makers, our Style & Co. Denim, Charter Club. Misses. \* WebID 1100801. Women's prices slightly higher



**DOORBUSTER** 59.99 JESSICA SIMPSON Reg. \$175, after 1pm: 87.50. Hooded jacket. Misses. 🖈 WebID 855641



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Only at Macy's. From Alfani
& Via Europa. S-XXL. Shown:
★ WebID 935863.



DOORBUSTER 29.99 CASHMERE FOR HIM Reg. \$95. after 1pm: 69.99. Only at Macy's. Club Room mufflers



DOORBUSTER 29.99 **ACCESSORIES** FOR HER Reg. \$72-\$95, after 1pm: 49.99-\$57. Only at Macy's. Charter Club cashmere scarves or leather gloves DOORBUSTER

**60% OFF** ALL JUNIORS' SWEATERS Doorbuster 11.80-\$16. Reg. 29.50-34.50, after 1pm: 19.99-21.99. From Pink Rose, Fang & more.

**DOORBUSTER 33% OFF** ALL MIXERS Doorbuster 25.99-401.99. Reg. 39.99-599.99, after 1pm: 29.99-449.99. KitchenAid, from left: Artisan, #KSM150 (★ WebID 77589) & Pro, #KP26 (★ 136737).



**DOORBUSTER** 12.99 FARBERWARE Reg. 39.99, after 1pm: 24.99. Only at Macy's. Nonstick fry pans in 8", 10" & 11" sizes.



**DOORBUSTER** 49.99 DIAMOND\*\* HOOPS Reg. \$200, after 1pm: \$75. 1/2 ct. t.w.\* in sterling silver (★ WebID 523058) or 18k gold over sterling silver (★ 513545) by Victoria Townsend.



**DOORBUSTER** \$99 CULTURED FRESHWATER PEARLS Reg. \$500, after 1pm: \$175. 100" 7-8mm endless strand ★ WebID 221829.

**DOORBUSTER** 39.99 ALL 8-PC. BED ENSEMBLES Reg. \$100, after 1pm: 59.99. Only at Macy's. By Fairfield Square Collection. Full-king. Shown: Davenport. ★ WebID 616362. Twin also



**DOORBUSTER** 15.99 ULTRA PLUSH THROW Reg. \$40, after 1pm: 19.99. **Only at Macy's.** By Charter Club. WebID 891523



**DOORBUSTER** \$169 DIAMOND STUDS Reg. \$550, after 1pm: 288.75. 3/8 ct. t.w.‡ in 14k white gold. ★ WebID 734775.



**DOORBUSTER** \$199 DIAMOND RING eg. \$600, after 1pm: \$225. /2 ct. t.w.‡ in sterling silver. WebID 659011.



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# Michigan shooting to go to trial

1 A Michigan homeowner will stand trial on murder charges in the shooting of an unarmed, intoxicated young woman on the porch of his house, a judge in Dearborn Heights, Mich., ruled Thursday.

Judge David D. Turfe said there was enough evidence to prosecute Theodore Wafer, 54, on charges of seconddegree murder and manslaughter, as well as a gun charge, in the Nov. 2 shooting of Renisha McBride, 19.

The ruling at the probable-cause hearing means that a criminal trial can go forward in the shooting case, which had angered the black community. The McBride family and civil rights advocates had called for an investigation into the death of the woman, who is black, at the hands of a white man.

There is no dispute that Wafer shot McBride-who was drunk and seeking help after a car crash-through the screen of his front door in the early hours of Nov. 2.

Wafer called 911 around 4:30 a.m. and said he had shot someone who was "banging on my door." More than three hours earlier, McBride had crashed her car into a parked car in a residential neighborhood. Wafer's attorney said his client feared for his life, but the judge said Wafer had other options.



Pussy Riot members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova (from left), Yekaterina Samutsovich and Maria Alyokhina attend their trial last year in Moscow, REUTERS PUE

### Pussy Riot members to be freed

MOSCOW Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday that two jailed members of the punk band Pussy Riot would be freed under an amnesty, but described their protest against him in a church as disgraceful.

Nadezhda Tolokonnikova, 24, and Maria Alyokhina, 25, are serving a two-year jail sentence for performing a crude "punk prayer" in Moscow's main cathedral against Putin and his ties to the Russian Orthodox church.

The two women had been due for release in March but are now expected to be freed

sooner under the amnesty, in part because both are mothers of small children.

The amnesty also will enable 30 people arrested in a Greenpeace protest against Arctic oil drilling to avoid trial-removing two irritants in ties with the West before Russia hosts the Winter Olympics in February.

But Putin said the amnesty was not drafted with the Greenpeace activists or Pussy Riot in mind. It was passed, he said, to mark the 20th anniversary of Russia's post-Soviet con-

"[The amnesty] is neither linked to Green-

peace, nor [Pussy Riot]," he said in an annual news conference.

The Kremlin leader made clear he had no doubts about Russia's handling of both cases, though it drew criticism from Western nations and a number of global celebrities.

"I was not sorry that [the Pussy Riot membersl ended up behind bars," Putin said. "I was sorry that they were engaged in such disgraceful behavior, which in my view was degrading to the dignity of women."

"They went beyond all boundaries," he

#### New Mexico court allows gay marriage

The New Mexico Supreme Court unanimously ruled Thursday to allow same-sex marriage statewide, ending a patchwork arrangement that saw the unions permitted in some counties while prohibited in others. The ruling makes New Mexico the 17th state to legalize gay marriage.

#### Obama commutes 8 sentences

President Obama commuted the prison sentences of eight people Thursday after deciding their crack cocaine offenses did not justify the length of their time behind bars. All those to receive the commutations have been in prison for more than 15 years.

#### 88 injured in théater incident

Emergency services said nearly 90 people had been injured in a packed London theater Thursday when part of the ceiling collapsed during a performance, bringing the city's West End theatre district to a standstill. Emergency services said there were 88 injured, with 81 "walking wounded."

#### Rodman arrives in N. Korea

Former Bulls star Dennis Rodman arrived in North Korea on Thursday to help train the country's national basketball team and prepare an exhibition game celebrating leader Kim Jong Un's birthday. It's his third visit this year to the reclusive nation.



That's how many shares of Facebook that founder Mark Zuckerberg will sell

in order to pay a tax bill. The shares are worth about \$2.3 billion.







# Snappe

#### Looking for former Bears quarterbacks? Check on LinkedIn—you'll be surprised

By Matt Lindner | FOR REDEYE

Pro quarterbacks—they're just like us! At least, they are after their playing days are over. For many of us, an updated LinkedIn profile is essential when it comes to the job search. The same can be said for a handful of former Bears quarterbacks from way back when. A search shows several are using the service much the same as we are, hoping to find new jobs, cultivate business opportunities or at the very least remind their professional contacts that they are, in fact, alive. So where are these guys now? MATTLINDNER IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

### MOSES MORENO

With Bears: 1998

**Now:** Vice president, Able Heating & Air Conditioning

Moreno played in two games late in the Bears' 1998 campaign. His lone start came in a 31-17 loss to Tampa Bay, but where there is a cloud, so exists a silver lining. Moreno is one of the few quarterbacks who can say he played for the Bears and didn't throw an interception. His final numbers in Chicago: 19-of-43, 166 yards, 1 TD, 0 INTs. But hey, that one touchdown was to Curtis Conway, who became Muhammad Ali's son-in-law, so that counts for something, right?

These days, Moreno exhibits a different kind of cool. He's vice president of Able Heating & Air Conditioning, which, per the Internet, is "a full service commercial and residential HVAC contractor serving San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange, Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties."

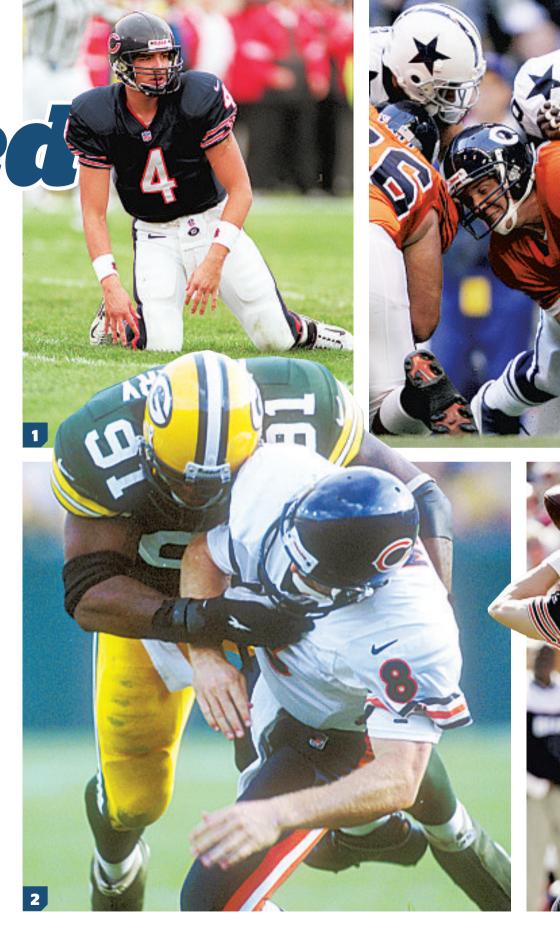
### CADE McNOWN

With Bears: 1999-2000

Now: Vice president, LourdMurray

Taken with the 12th pick in 1999, McNown was a huge bust for the Bears, eventually slipping below the two-headed monster of Shane Matthews and Jim Miller before being traded in 2001. In two seasons in Chicago, he went 3-12 as a starter, throwing for 16 touchdowns and 19 interceptions.

But while McNown failed on the field, he apparently did quite well off it. In the early 2000s, he reportedly stole a woman away from Hugh Hefner, earning him a lifetime ban from the Playboy Mansion. These days he's found success in a different field. He's a vice president at LourdMurray, a Beverly Hills-based financial planning firm. According to a statement, McNown's job is to develop customized financial solutions for clients.



Craig Krenzel





TRIBUNE AND GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS

#### **3 CRAIG KRENZEL**

With Bears: 2004

Now: Principal, Arthur Krenzel Lett Insurance Group

Blink and you would've missed Krenzel's brief stint as the Bears' starting guarterback. One of the most successful QBs in Ohio State history, he won a national championship for the Buckeyes in 2003 and earned a degree in molecular biology. That success didn't carry over to the pros, however. In six games (five starts) with the Bears, Krenzel went 3-2, completing less than 50 percent of his passes while throwing for three touchdowns and six interceptions.

He finished his career backing up Carson Palmer with Cincinnati, but at least he's got a sense of humor about it. Under the "Professional Athlete. Cincinnati Bengals" portion of his LinkedIn profile, Krenzel describes his responsibilities as "Held the Clipboard and stole paychecks."



Jonathan

Quinn

With Bears: 2004

Now: Head football coach, MidAmerica Nazarene University

Ouinn was the first of three signal callers to keep the seat warm for Rex Grossman, taking over after Grossman went down in Week 3 in 2004. In five games (three starts), Quinn went 0-3, throwing for 413 vards, one touchdown and three interceptions before making way for Craig Krenzel. 2004 was Quinn's last year in the league.

He's been more successful under the headset than he was under center. In five seasons as coach at NAIA school MidAmerica Nazarene University, he's led the Pioneers to a 45-13 record, including four playoff berths and a pair of conference championships.



With Bears: 1997

Now: Proprietor, Mirror Wine Company

The Bears traded a first-round pick in the 1997 draft to get Mirer, with the expectation that he was going to stabilize the quarterback position. Well, that never happened. Mirer didn't do much as a Bear. In seven games (three starts), he compiled an 0-3 record, throwing for six interceptions and zero touchdowns before being released prior to the 1998 season.

While his performance with the Bears may have inspired fans to drink, at least now he provides them with a suitable beverage to quaff. Mirer's Mirror Wine Company makes small productions of Napa Valley cabernet and sauvignon blanc. So if you've got a glass, raise it to the man who led Notre Dame to glory and the Bears to ... er, we're sure he's a lovely human being.

### **5 STEVE STENSTROM**

With Bears: 1996-98

Now: President, Pro Athletes Outreach

Long before Jay Cutler somewhat stabilized the position came a carousel of forgettable names. Among them was Stenstrom, a longtime backup thrust into the starting role for seven games during a 1998 season that saw the Bears go 4-12. As a backup, Stenstrom was an excellent clipboard carrier. As a starter, well, the numbers don't lie. He went 1-6, throwing for four touchdowns, six interceptions and 1,252 yards.

These days, Stenstrom runs Pro Athletes Outreach, a faith-based not-for-profit that hosts conferences across the country and aims to help professional athletes integrate faith into their daily lives.

#### **BETTER THAN JAY? NO WAY**

With all the controversy about who should be the Bear's starting QB, we thought it would be a good idea to remind fans that having Jay Cutler isn't the worst thing in the world. Here's a look at how his stats as a Bear compare to the combined stats of these "LinkedIn" quarterbacks.

Lin	kedin QBs	Cutler	
GAMES	56	65	
<b>GAMES STARTED</b>	34	65	
W-L RECORD	7-27	39-26	
WINNING %	20.6	60	
COMPLETIONS	586	1,223	
ATTEMPTS	1,100	2,031	
COMP. %	53.3	60.2	
PASSING YARDS	6,187	14,465	
YARDS/GAME	110.48	222.54	
TD-INT	25-42	98-73	
SOURCE: PRO-FOOTBA	LL-REFERENCI	E.COM	





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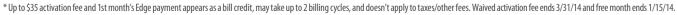
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#### fiveonfive

#### FIRST-Y

The Bears are so close to a division title they can taste it. Or maybe those are Roberto Luongo's tears.



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	After Sunday's game against the Eagles, the Bears will be	tired but victorious and cling- ing on at the top of the NFC North.	in first place. Tied with Green Bay, Because they'll tie the Eagles. Seriously!	in PHILADELPHIAI	in first place. Maybe.	Tim Yoder: cold.
2	Why has the Blackhawks' power play been so effective lately?	Coach Q warned players if they didn't capitalize on power plays they would get sent not to Rockford, but to the Ice Crew.	Duncan Keith running the point. Maybe he could help the Bulls, too?	@CoachQsMustache sprinkled some hairy dust on everyone.	Talent, Skill, Luck, Got that, Cubs?	Mikal Elyse Farrell: Stalberg fi- nally figured out a way to help the Blackhawks power play.
3	Vancouver is in town Friday. Got anything to say to the Canucks?	Give us the win and some pou- tine and maybe we won't hate you so much.	The two jerk Alexes, Burrows and Edler, are both out. I'm good for now.	Look at it, but don't touch it. You know what I'm talking about.	Regarding the disparity in talent, nothing has changed. Happy Canadian holidays.	@SJankowskit! We don't want any trouble. Just take the beating we give and leave our cars and storefronts alone.
4	Make a prediction for college football's bowl season.	There will be tears. I mean from Florida State fan Ernest Wilkins, regardless of whether his team wins or loses.	Auburn's beating Florida State. Sorry, Ernest.	Cumberland will defeat Georgia Tech, 222-0.	You'll be just as confused at the end of it as you are now.	@AndreGMIO Can't wait for the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl #NOT What's next? The Stale Utah Artichoke Bowl?
5	After SIU's hoops coach ripped his team publicly, what does he do to follow up?	Throw a temper tantrum, yell- ing, crying and stomping when Santa doesn't give him any presents.	The only thing he can do: quit and become a Juggalo.	Rebound.	After referencing her so many times, I'd like to meet the wife.	James Serra: He starts his wife at center.





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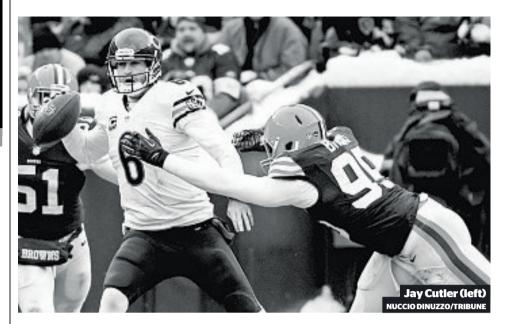
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## All across Chicago, this is what you'll hear



Three Bears fans walk into a bar. Let's call them Trusty, Scaredy and Doubty:

**Trusty:** So, Jay Cutler should start Sunday, right?

Scaredy: Absolutely! Did you see that arm strength in the Cleveland game? He fits the football into windows that Josh McCown can't. No,

no ... that NO OTHER quarterback can!

**Doubty:** Did you see him force throws in that same Cleveland game? Cripes, he cost the Bears 10 points on forced throws to Brandon Marshall, and simply got lucky that his lollipop of a toss to Alshon Jeffrey wasn't intercepted either. Dammit, he's going to cost us the Eagles game, you just watch.

**Trusty:** But the Bears need to play Jay to see if he warrants an extension, or maybe a raise.

Scaredy: Exactly. Phil Emery has to give my man Cutty the shot at leading the Bears into the playoffs. If he can do it, then he can prove worthy of an extension. Just like Joe Flacco with the Ravens last year, play the man then pay the man!

**Doubty:** This would work great if somehow there was a reversal in the flow of spacetime around Halas Hall. Flacco's contract is the most overpriced piece of paper since the Mona Lisa. The guy has basically been as good as Cutler for his whole career, and the

Ravens just nuked their salary cap to keep a guy who got hot for four playoff games. I do not want the Bears to do this. No one should do this. Wait, the Packers should do this. That would be awesome.

Trusty: C'mon, now, Cutler's probably the best quarterback the Bears have had in the Super Bowl era.

**Doubty:** Y'know what? You're right. He is. And he's still not worth \$18 million a year.

**Scaredy:** Dude, do you remember what it was like? Do you remember "The Starting Quarterback Graphic" they'd whip out every time the Bears played the Packers? I don't want to go back there. I CAN'T GO BACK THERE.

Doubty: It's OK, man. You don't have to go back there. Marc Trestman seems to have the best handle on offense of any Bears coach in your lifetime. There are other quarterbacks. Cheaper ones who are just as good.

Scaredy: I'm ... I'm scared.

**Trusty:** What if the Bears lose Sunday?

**Doubty:** Launch Jay into the sun.

**Scaredy:** Stop yourself. Then his job and the season's all on the line against the Packers.

**Doubty:** The effing Packers.

**Trusty:** The Packers. Is it wrong that I kinda want to see that winner-take-all game?

Scaredy: Nope.

Doubty: Not at all.

Trusty: Go Eagles?

Scaredy: ...

**Doubty:** ... Get the hell out of here.

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# WHO'S TOP

Each week, RedEye's Whizzer goes paw to paw with Rob Cressy's dog. Callie, to see who picks NFL games more accurately.

Overall records: Whizzer is 46-28. Callie is 41-33



#### **WEEK 16 PICKS**

CALLIE

Bears Giants Steelers Panthers Ravens

GAME

Bears at Philadelphia N.Y. Giants at Detroit Pittsburgh at Green Bay New Orleans at Carolina New England at Baltimore WHIZZER

Eagles Giants Packers Saints Patriots

That's how much Cubs shortstop Starlin Castro had seized from his bank accounts for refusing to pay 3 percent of his contract to a baseball school in the Dominican Republic, according to published reports.

Brian Boitano

GETTYIMAGESFILE

THE MOUTHWATCH am many things:

a son, a brother, and uncle, a friend, an athlete, a cook, an

author, and being gay is just one part of who I am."

-Brian Boitano, a figure skating gold medalist on the delegation that will represent the U.S. at the Sochi Olympics. Two other openly gay athletes, tennis great Billie Jean King and two-time hockey medalist Caltlin Cahow, also are on the U.S. delegation.

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### movies

By Matt Pais | REDEYE

Asked to choose whether great songwriting or great performance ability is more important for a musician, "Inside Llewyn Davis" star Oscar Isaac hesitates, wavers, then decides.

"I'd say definitely songwriting.

Because if you perform a [bleepy] song, then just 'cause you're really good at performing it ..." the 33-year-old actor, who plays the film's titular folk singer, says at the James Hotel. "You can put diamonds on a turd, I guess."

In other words, you can try, but you can't fake quality. That's never been an issue for the Coen brothers ("No Country for Old Men," "Fargo"), who bring their traditional warped sense of humor and uncompromising view of the world's challenges to "Llewyn Davis," opening Friday. In his first leading role, Isaac ("Drive," "Robin Hood") is terrific as a struggling musician in 1961 New York who's more familiar with sleeping on couches than earning significant money for his versions of classic songs. Early folk singers played standards because that was the way songs were passed down before recorded music became the norm, Isaac notes.

Isaac, who chalks up his quick on-screen success to the sort of luck Llewyn doesn't have, has played in bands for much of his life. So this wasn't a case of an actor having to pick up an instrument and learn to perform for the first time. The potential Oscar nominee says the New York club shows he played to prepare for the film allowed him to simply "face an audience just with a guitar." No one recognized him from his films. No one booed. Some asked where they could buy his albums.

He's not the only actor-musician bridging the artistic forms, of course. Justin Timberlake co-stars in the film as Jim, the on- and offstage partner of the pregnant woman (Carey Mulligan, Isaac's "Drive" co-star) who isn't sure if Jim or Llewyn is the father. Yes, the "tricky" subject of mixing music and movies came up in conversation between Isaac and Timberlake.

"You don't want to be looked at as just an opportunist," Isaac says. "But if you actually have a true desire and you feel like you can contribute something to the medium, then I think it's fair to try. ... I feel confident in that I have something to offer in both the music and film [industries], and I think [Justin] probably feels the same way."



#### PLUS

On a moment during prepa-ration or filming when he wanted to be a better musi clan: "That's always the challenge. Never being satisfied. I think that's good. Obviously if you take it too far it becomes perfectionism and it can turn into neuroses, but I think that feeling of, "I feel like it could be better; what work can I do that can make it be deeper and truer?," that's the constant search for an artist I think."

If he had to choose between the Coens' "Raising Arizona" or "The Big Lebowski": "I'd prob-ably go with 'Raising Arizona' just because It's the first one that I saw. And I was like, 'What is this weird tone?' It's so funny, yet I feel so weird and sad after it's over. 'Lebowski's' a close second."

"Fargo" or "No Country For Old Men"? "Um, I don't know, man. I can't really pick between those. It's too hard."

A song he likes on the radio now: "I really like that 'Why I Love You,' the Kanye and Jay Zsong. [sings] 'I love you so ... duh nuh nuh nuh ... l love you so ...' That song's awesome."

Watch video from this interview at redeyechicago.com.



Top: Oscar Isaac (from left), Justin Timberlake and Adam Driver in "Inside Llewyn Davis" Bottom: Isaac and Timberlake as Llewyn and Jim



We're all young guys that grew up listening to Radiohead. So the fact that we ... still can dig into our favorites, that was an incredible night."

-Oscar Isaac, on jamming with Justin Timberlake, Marcus Mumford and the Punch Brothers

Isaac has nothing to worry about. The film contains excellent performances and excellent music, curated by the Coens and T Bone Burnett ("Crazy Heart"), who were assisted by Mumford and Sons frontman (and Mulligan's husband) Marcus Mumford. It provided Isaac the rare opportunity to jam with Timberlake, Mumford and bluegrass out fit the Punch Brothersincluding playing the

entirety of Radiohead's

"In Rainbows."

"We're all young guys that grew up listening to Radiohead," he says. "So the fact that we're into traditional music but still can dig into our favorites, that was an incredible night."

Incredible on a different level: To film some of Llewyn's many scenes trying to control a housecat, Isaac, who as a kid

thought he could communicate with cats by meowing, had to be connected to the feline actors with a wire. I note that this is an experience most people don't have.

'And really, they shouldn't," he says, not missing a beat. "I don't recommend it. A cat generally doesn't want to be attached to you by a wire, so it will try to become unattached by

whatever means necessary." Is there an animal he'd recommend attaching via wire instead?

"A dead one maybe."

MATT PAIS IS REDEVE'S MOVIES AND MUSIC GUY.

#### When true grit isn't true or gritty enough



Inside Llewyn Davis



FAST PAISED

#### Matt Pais

Not many filmmakers could avoid coming off as crass while ending a scene with a character holding up a cat, seeking to prove a cat is not her lost pet, and bellowing, "Where's its scrotum<sup>2</sup>!\*

Writers/directors/brothers Joel and Ethan Coen

do so with ease. That's their sense of humor and their distinct vision of the world's profound messages and puzzling mysteries. Fans of the filmmakers ("No Country For Old Men," "A Serious Man") will recognize the state of mind in the Coens' first effort since 2010's solid-if-unexceptional "True Grit" remake. As both comedy and drama, "Inside Llewyn Davis" looks at the human experience and sees a lonely mess, ripe with disappointment and trouble.

"Inside Llewyn Davis" (loosely inspired by the late Dave Van Ronk's memoir) is a film about how the emotional traumas of music and life knock us on our asses even on repeat. In 1961 New York, folk singer Llewyn Davis (Oscar Isaac) attempts to begin a solo career after the end of his little-beard duo. Whatever the It factor needed to make it in the music biz, Llewyn doesn't have it. He's a guy who, with just his voice and words and a guitar, can ensure the only other noise in a packed room comes from the clink of glasses. But a lot of artists can do that.

Moving over you like a slow frost, "Inside Llewyn Davis" gently incorporates trademark Coen strangeness while never flinching from the story of a man who seems to be playing a game he's already lost. In a subtly devastating lead role, Isaac holds in his eyes the woozy desperation. of someone who's received little help and made few compromises. He's been 'a sorry mess" a long timet.

"If it was never new and it never gets old, then it's a folk song," Llewyn says. It's like deja vu the first time, or freshness the 10th-applicable to a Coen brothers effort that, perhaps appropriately for a continuation of their strengths, practically finds richness in repetition.



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### **NEW ON DVD**

By Rick Bentley | THE FRESNO BEE





#### 'The Lone Ranger'

The story is a standard Western tale, with the Lone Ranger (Armie Hammer) and Tonto

(Johnny Depp) trying to catch the evil Butch Cavendish (William Fichtner), who is in cahoots with some dastardly businessmen. Hammer is likable enough, both as attorney John Reid and as The Masked Man.

If you can accept that this film is not your father's—or even grandfather's—"Lone Ranger," then this latest adventure for The Masked Man and his faithful sidekick has a few fun moments. If you're loyal to the brand, then you and your ke-mo sah-bee should ride off into the sunset.







#### 'One Direction: This Is Us'

Morgan Spurlock's film is a melodic blend of concert footage and

behind-the-scenes moments that range from comical to touching. Spurlock doesn't just rely on the inherent popularity of the boy band. Instead, he strips away the hysteria to offer a glimpse of the guys to go with the energetic stage shows.

Spurlock doesn't shortchange the musical performances. He takes the viewer from front-row seats to a perspective so close to the group that it feels like the audience is the sixth member of the band.



#### **'Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters'**

The film—just like the 2010 release "Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief"—continues to fill in that action film void between little kids and savvy teens. It is a balanced blend of the kind of action that's found in "The Mighty Morphin Power Rangers" series and a touch of the teen angst that has made the "Twilight" series so popular.

Director Thor Freudenthal shows the wisdom of Athena as he sets a quick tempo for this tale that takes the young heroes from battles in the woods to high-seas adventures. A few of the special effects are weak. But the film moves at such a rapid pace, there's not much time to dwell on any visual miscues.

## JT knows his music in 'Inside Llewyn Davis'

#### **Los Angeles Times**

"It's fun to use my singing voice as part of a character," says pop superstar Justin Timberlake, describing how he toned down his vibrato and adjusted his guitar-strumming to portray clean-cut early '60s folk singer Jim Berkey in the Coen brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis." One of the most delightful scenes in the movie, which opens Friday, involves a spirited recording session for a goofy novelty song called "Please Mr. Kennedy"—a plea to not be drafted into the space race.

Jim sets the pace, instructing his musician buddy Llewyn (Oscar Isaac) on where to jump in and how many "puh-puh" P sounds to insert before the word "please." They then launch into a driving, deadpan version of the nonsensical song while their pal Al Cody (Adam Driver) blurts out "Uh-oh!" and other doo-wop exclamations for a comic top note.

Llewyn, described by the movie's executive music producer, T Bone Burnett, as "a moody existentialist" folk singer struggling

to get by in the '60s music scene, finds the song appalling, but Jim can't see a problem with it. "If people want a campy song, Jim's happy to write it," Timberlake said. "He kind of represents where the world was going. The beatniks of that time looked at music like, 'This isn't a career, man, this is art.' But if you look at the music business now—you're not anything until you've made an actual career out of being a musician."

If Timberlake was ever concerned about his own bona fides, he may have overcompensated. The night before he sat down to chat, he'd been anointed both favorite male soul/R&B artist and favorite male pop/rock artist at the American Music Awards. While others in the "Inside Llewyn Davis" cast were promoting the movie with intimate musical performances in New York and L.A., Timberlake was kicking off a world tour around the recent pair of albums he dubbed "The 20/20 Experience."

With a raft of film roles now to his credits,



Timberlake had never gotten to play a musician, until Joel Coen called. "I think I said yes before he finished the sentence," Timberlake said. "I knew I wanted to mix music and movie-making. To get to do it with the Coen brothers is kind of unbelievable."

Burnett, who's worked on some of the choicest music-driven movies ever, including the Coens' "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," doesn't hesitate to give Timberlake his due. "Justin is a bad man," he said, indulging in musician-speak. "He's a real artist. He'll get

after it. He lays down the law. He's not an empty-headed pop singer."

In "Llewyn Davis," Timberlake sings lead in a three-part harmony performance of Hedy West's "500 Miles," one of the more lyrical and beloved songs of the period. But it's "Please Mr. Kennedy" that's getting the most attention this awards season; the song has been submitted for Golden Globe consideration (it's ineligible for the Academy Awards because it was adapted from existing material).



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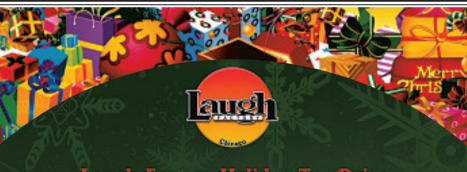
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#### **Los Angeles Times**

Benedict Cumberbatch inspires the sort of rabid, overwhelming Internet love usually reserved for cats wearing sweaters, but sitting with the actor even briefly, it's sort of easy to understand why. In the course of 20 minutes, Cumberbatch sounded off with ease and eloquence on his personal relationship to the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien, his "porn star dragon" Smaug and dealing with international celebrity.

Smaug really is a work of art. He's an incredible creation, isn't he? Eighty percent of it is [created by the special effects team at] WETA. It was amazing to do. I did do motion capture. I can sort of see bits of that in those closeups when he's one-on-one with Bilbo and with Thorin at the end; it's vague, but I can see, underneath all those scales, the eyebrow movements and the mouth and stuff. So what I'm saying is I can say that it's good without saying that much about myself.

How did you come to play Smaug? I approached them. I put myself on tape. I auditioned. I was asked to audition, I guess, at some point. My dad read this to me when I was a kid. I must have been about 6 or 7 because I went to boarding school at 8. So, it was a bedtime treat. This is for him. I owe a lot of it to him. I don't know how much of his performance I ripped off. I can remember his Smeagol, his Gollum, was brilliant. He did that

a long time afterwards just to keep me sweet when I was in a grump, get my attention or make me laugh.

#### Peter Jackson mentioned something about you rolling around on a bit of carpet ...

It was motion capture, so I did roll around a bit on the carpet. He's talking about the dragon porn that happened a little bit later, in the sort of third installment of our work together ... they built the platform in the main soundstage at the post-production facility down in Wellington and it was great. It was sort of above [the floor], so I had this kind of thing of superiority. It was literally like "Baum chicka baum baum," me up on my Smaug-y platform. I was like, "This is cool, I can slink around like a porn star dragon."

A porn star dragon?! That's one, sort-of-hilarious way to think of it. It was great because that luxuriant sensation I imagine it is for him to

feel all that gold around him, [as an actor] to have some kind of contact with this thing was great. There was actually a camera on me as well, but it was mainly a sound recording. They built this rig for the mo-cap skull cap—which usually carries a camera—they built one with a microphone so I looked like one of those ridiculous bottom-of-the-deep ocean angler fishes with those antenna things, but it meant I could move in any direction. There's a lot of thrashing about, and I really wanted to get that energy into the voice. The wire came back to this little pack and then trailed back around so that sort of became a swishy mermaid serpentine-type tail. It was great, they really got what I wanted to do with him, which was to color everything with a physicality rather than just being a disembodied voice. I think

it works. You don't feel a disconnect between what you're hearing and what you're seeing.

As an actor, how does one prepare to play a dragon? They had some artists' impressions of him and of Erebor and this landscape he was going to be in, so I looked at that first, then went onto the mo-cap stage, imagined it, moved around with my hands [in the shape of claws], my elbows in, crawling on my belly, feet kind of clamped together as a tail, overarticulating my neck and my jaw and ruining my shoulders and doing all sorts of nonsense and damage to myself and then evolving the voice out of that. It was a wonderful evolution. I went to the London Zoo to do my good kind of actorly drama school kind of thing, my animal study.



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### **Electric lady land**

FAST PAISED

#### Matt Pais

mpais @tribune.com

In early December, the New York Film Critics Circle awarded director/ co-writer David O. Russell's "American Hustle" Best Picture and Best Screenplay.

That's pushing it. Lacking the confidence of Russell's recent Oscar nominees (the great "Silver Linings Playbook," the good "The Fighter"), the film often feels stuck between aping Martin Scorsese ("Goodfellas") and Paul Thomas Anderson ("Boogie Nights"). It's rarely as playful or funny or loose or hip as it hopes.

There should be no complaints to the NYFCC, however, for awarding Best Supporting Actress to Jennifer Lawrence. A year after winning the Oscar for Best Actress in "Silver Linings," she sneaks along the fringes of "Hustle" until eventually pulling off the kind of brilliant thievery the characters can only dream of. Opening by noting, "Some of this actually happened," the film continually



reminds us, often through various characters in lazily conceived voiceover, that life is but a con game, and everyone has an angle.

Looking like the polar opposite of his Oscar-winning role in "The Fighter," Christian Bale plays Irving, a conscience-free swindler who's a plump advocate of the comb-over. When he and his girlfriend, Sydney (Amy Adams), who poses as an English banking whiz named Edith, get pinched by FBI agent Richie DiMaso (Bradley Cooper), the pair has no choice but to assist the feds in exposing corrupt officials (including Jeremy Renner as a New Jersey mayor) or face time themselves.

Actually, they do have a choice, but Irving won't flee the country—he loves the son he adopted after marrying Rosalyn (Lawrence). a live wire of hair and cleavage whom her husband dubs "the princess of passive-



aggressive karate."

Set in the late '70s, the secondhand-feeling, overlong "American Hustle" is all dull ties and low necklines, but that's hardly the reason the actresses outdo the actors here. Lawrence carefully adds dimension after dimension to a character that at first seems not to have any: Adams subtly reveals how much Sydney has given up to change her life and how worried she is about winding up

with nothing.

A great cast isn't everything, though. (Hello, "The Counselor.") And "Hustle," a movie with so much talent and potential, falters with emotional currents that aren't satisfyingly explored and oppressive voiceover that clashes with the on-screen effort at jazzy, crackling entertainment. Hey. Soderbergh ("Ocean's Eleven"), you want a shot at this?

∴ Handicapped Access Digital Sound Dolby Stereo No Passes 7 Hearing - Impaired. G. General audience PG. Parental guidence supported B. Besticiant, and of 17 requires accompanying recent of the re-

PG-15 - Parenty strongly cautioned, Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

#### **RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)**

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)
322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
888-AMC-4FUN
Show times change daily
■Frozen (Fe) ₱ 10:50, 1:40, 4:20
■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (Fe) ★ 2:15, 7:15
■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (FG-13) ₱ 11:50, 3:20, 6:40, 10:10
■Out of the Furnace (R) ₱ (Closed caption) 4:15
■Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (FG-13) ₱ 10:10, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 10:15, 11:15

■Frozen 3D (PG) 7:45, 10:40 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) £ 12:00, 3:00, 3:45,

6:00, 7:30, 9:45, 10:30, 11:15

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) 10:00, 11:15, 1:30,

■Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) ft 10:30 11:45 12:45 1:30 2:45 4:00 4:45

■AMC Independent **Dhoom 3** (NR) ★ ₱ 11:20, 3:00, 6:30, 10:10, 11:15.

■AMC Independent Inside Llewyn Davis (R) Ð 10:45, 1:45, 4:30,

7:15, 10:00 ■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) Đ 10:00, 2:05, 3:40, 4:40,

7:30, 8:45, 10:15 ■AMC Independent **The Book Thief** (PG-13) D 11:30, 2:45 ■**American Hustle** (R) ★ D 10:00, 12:15, 1:15, 3:30, 4:30, 6:45, 7:45,

■AMC Independent Dallas Buyers Club (R) £ 10:15, 1:10, 7:15

■AMC Independent **Nebraska** (R) Ð 12:35, 3:35, 6:35, 9:20 ■AMC Independent **Philomena** (PG-13) 10:05, 12:40, 3:10, 5:40, 8:15,

■Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) ★ Ð 10:15, 11:45, 4:45, 9:45

#### SHOWPLACE VILLAGE CROSSING (AMC) 7000 Carpenter Rd., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #2309

Frozen (PG) D 10:20, 1:10, 2:10, 7:40

■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) D 7:10, 10:10
■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) ★ 2:15, 7:15
■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) D 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:40

■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) ₱ 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10 **Anchorman 2:** The Legend Continues (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:30, 11:30, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30, 11:30 ■Frozen 3D (PG) 11:20, 5:00, 10:20 **The Hobbit:** The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ ₱ 11:00, 12:30, 2:30, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15, 8:00, 10:00, 11:30 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ 10:00, 1:30, 12:00

9:00 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience

(PG-13) ★ 11:45, 3:30, 7:15, 11:00 ■Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:20, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20 ■Yelr Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:20, 11:20, 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:15

■AMC Independent The Book Thief (PG-13) € 4:10 ■American Hustle (R) ★ ₱ 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, 3:00, 4:00, 6:00, 7:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:30

■AMC Independent Nehraska (B) ★ £ 11:15 2:00 5:00 7:50 10:50 ■AMC Independent Philomena (PG-13) 10:05, 1:50, 4:15, 6:40, 9:05
■Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) ★ Ð 10:00, 4:45, 9:45

#### WEBSTER PLACE 11 (REGAL)

1471 W. Webster Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1641 rican Hustle (R) \* (Closed caption) 12:30, 3:40, 7:00.

■Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:50

■Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:50, 2:40, 5:30, 8:20, 11:10 ■Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:10, 1:10, 4:10,

#### SHOWPLACE GALEWOOD 14 (AMC)

E. Side of Central Ave., just S. of Grand Ave., Chicago (800) 326-3264 #1646

Frozen (PG) D 11:00, 12:00, 2:45, 3:30, 5:30, 6:15, 7:15 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) £ 12:25 9:00

■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) ★ 12:35, 5:20, 10:10 ■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) D 12:30, 3:45,

■Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) ★ 12:15, 1:15, 3:15, 4:15, 6:15, 7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15 ■Frozen 3D (PG) 1:45 4:30 10:00

3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ 10:45.

■The Best Man Holiday (R) D 10:10, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10 ■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ Đ 11:00, 12:00, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00, 5:00, 6:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:00

■Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) ★ Ð 10:10, 3:00, 7:45

■Homefront (R) Ð 12:30, 3:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30

#### **SHOWPLACE CICERO 14 (AMC)** 4779 W. Cerrnak., Cicero (800) 326-3264 #1644

■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) D 10:20, 1:10, 4:10, 7:05, 9:50 ■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) 1:10, 6:00 ■The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) Đ 10:00, 12:45

■Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) Đ 10:15, 11 1:15, 2:00, 4:15, 5:00, 6:15, 7:15, 8:00, 9:30, 10:15, 11:00

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) D 11:45

1:45, 5:15, 8:45

■AMC Independent Narco Cultura (R) £ 3:45, 9:00 ■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) D 10:30, 11:15, :15, 2:00, 2:45, 4:00, 4:45, 5:30, 6:45, 7:30, 8:15, 10:10, 10:50

■Black Nativity (PG) Đ 10:45, 1:20 ■American Hustle (R) Đ 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:10, 10:30 ■Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) £ 10:30, 12:15, 3:30, 8:15, 10:5

#### SHOWPLACE ICON AT ROOSEVELT COLLECTION Clark & Roosevelt, South Loop, Chicago (312) 564-2104

Clark & Biossevelt, South Loop, Chicago (43.2 564  $\times$  2104  $\times$  104  $\times$  104  $\times$  104  $\times$  105  $\times$  105

■Frozen 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 1:30 ■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 11:50,

2:10, 4:30°

\*\*Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) \* (Closed caption) 10:15, 10:50, 12:40, 1:20, 3:50, 6:40, 9:10

\*\*The Hunger Games: Catchining Fire (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:10, 2:40, 5:15, 9:41,

4:20, 7:15, 10:15 Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) \* (Closed cap-

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) \* (Closed caption) 11:20. 200, 500, 750, 1050 nto Continues (PG-13) \* (Closed caption) 12:10, 300, 800, 850, 850, 850, 104 ntues (PG-13) \* (Closed caption) 12:10, 300, 800, 850, 850, 104 ntues (PG-13) \* (Closed caption) 10:00, 11:00, 11:30, 12:50, 150, 22:0, 340, 4:40, 5:10, 630, 7:00, 730, 810, 9:20, 10:00, 10:30, 1:00, 1:00, 1:40, 310, 4:10, 4:50, 6:20, 7:20, 800, 9:45, 10:40, 1:20
■American Hustle (R) \* (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:00, 1:40, 3:10, 4:10, 4:50, 6:20, 7:20, 800, 9:45, 10:40, 1:20
■Frozen (PG) (Closed caption) 10:40, 4:15, 6:50, 9:30

\*\*The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smarug (PG-13) \* ✓ WP Premium Z1+1:40, 3:30, 7:10, 10:45

\*\*Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) \* (Closed caption) VIP Premium Z1+1:210, 3:00, 6:00, 8:50, 11:40

OAK PARK
LAKE CINEMAS (GLASSIC)
1022 Lake Street, Oak Park
(630) 444-FLM #560

#Frozen (PG) (Closed on (PG) (Closed caption) 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20 rman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) (Closed caption) 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:00, 4:15, 7:30 **Saving Mr. Banks** (PG-13) (Closed caption) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00,

EVANSTON
CENTURY 12/CINEARTS 6 (CENTURY)
1715 Maple Ave., Evanston
(847, 492-0123 &
0ut of the Furnace (R) D (Closed caption) 9:40
12 Years a Slave (R) D (Closed caption) 4:15, 7:25, 10:30
Dallas Buyers Club (R) D (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:55, 4:50,
7:45, 10:40

7:35, 10:35 The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) D (Closed

caption) 12:10, 1:35, 3:50, 7:30, 9:00 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) (Closed caption) 11:25, 3:05, 6:45, 10:25

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) (Closed

caption) 12:55, 2:15, 4:35, 5:20, 6:00, 8:15 Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) D (Closed caption 12:05, 2:40, 5:15, 7:50, 10:45 ■ Frozen (PG) ₱ (Closed caption) 11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
■ Inside Llewyn Davis (R) ₱ (Closed caption) 11:40, 2:25, 5:00 7:40, 10:20 ■American Hustle (R) Ð (Closed caption) 12:50, 4:00, 7:20,

■Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 11:30, 12:50, 2:20, 3:40, 5:10, 6:30, 8:00, 9:20, 10:50
■Philomena (PG-13) D (Closed caption) 12:25, 2:55, 5:25,

7:55, 10:30 ■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) Ð (Closed caption) 11:50 4:40, 9:30 ■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) (Closed caption) 2:10, 7:05

#### merican Hustle (R) \* Ð 11:30, 12:55, 4:10, 7:15, 8:45, 10:20 LANDMARK CENTURY CENTRE CINEMA (LANDMARK)

■Out of the Furnace (R) D (Closed caption) 10:20, 12:35, 6:10
■Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) ★ D 10:45, 1:40, 3:20,

4:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:25 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ ₱ 10:00, 1:30, 2:55, 5:00, 8:30, 10:00

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smarg 3D (PG-13) \* 11:20, 6:30

Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) \* D 10:15, 1:10, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55

Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) \* D 10:05, 2:10, 4:20,

2828 North Clark St., Chicago (773) 509-4949 ■Inside Llewyn Davis (R) (Closed caption) 1:00, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30,

#### **CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)**

600 N. MICHIGAN (AMC)

CITY NUM: IT 14 (INCUR)
2500 N. Western Ave.
(800) 326-3264 #1642

Walking With Dinosaurs SD (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 1:30, 4:20

Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) ★ (Closed caption) 10:40, 7:70, 9:40

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:00, 1:00, 4:00, 7:20, 10:20, 12:00

American Hustle (B) ★ (Closed caption) 10:10, 1:20, 4:30, 7:40, 3:40, 7:40, 7:40, 3:40, 7:40,

10:50, 11:40 ■Saving Mr. Banks (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:30, 1:40, 4:40, 7:30,

■Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:25,

1:05, 3:55, 6:30, 9:00 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ (Closed ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption)

11:35, 7:35, 11:15

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) \* (Closed cap-

■ The hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 10:35, 2:35, 6:35, 10:15
■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) ★ (Closed caption) 11:05, 3:05, 7:05, 10:45
■Out of the Furnace (R) (Closed caption) 10:05, 12:55, 3:45, 6:45
■Frozen (PG) (Closed caption) 10:15, 11:15, 1:25, 2:25, 4:15, 5:25, 4:15,

8:15, 10:55 The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) (Closed caption) 10:55, 2:45, 6:15, 7:15, 9:35, 10:35

■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) (Closed caption) 9:50

#### DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)

JAVIS 1 ITEM INE (# NEUL)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

#American Hustle (R) ★ 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

#Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) ★ 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

#Anchorman 2: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ 3:15, 6:30, 9:45

#Frozen (PG) 4:40, 7:00, 9:20

#### FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

Show times change daily

■Frozen (PG) D 11:35, 1:25, 2:25, 5:20, 6:25
■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) D 11:00, 1:45, 7:05, 9:50
■Walking With Dinosaurs 3D (PG) ★ 3:45, 8:45

■ The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG-13) D 12:10, 3:30, 6:55, 10:10
■ Out of the Furnace (R) D (Closed caption) 2:30, 5:30
■ Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG-13) ★ D 10:45, 11:15, 1:30, 2:00, 4:15, 4:45, 7:00, 7:30, 8:30, 9:45, 10:15 ■Frozen 3D (PG) 3:55 9:15

■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG-13) ★ £ 11:20, 3:00,

6:30, 10:00 ■The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG-13) ★ 12:15, 4:00, ■The Best Man Holiday (R) D 1:40, 7:10

■ Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (PG-13) ★ D 10:55, 11:30, 1:35 2:15, 4:20, 4:50, 6:50, 7:25, 8:15, 9:30, 10:05

■Black Nativity (PG) Ð 11:10, 4:35, 10:15

■ Walking With Dinosaurs (PG) ★ D 10:45, 12:00, 1:15, 4:30, 6:15 ■ Homefront (R) D 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55

#### GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

Symphony (NR) 6:00 ■Antonio Gaudi (NR) 6:15 ■The Grandmaster (PG-13) 7:45 ■I'm So Excited! (R) 7:45

LOGAN THEATRE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago (773) 252-0628 ■National Lampoon's Christ ■Gravity (PG-13) 4:20, 8:25

■12 Years a Slave (B) 2:00, 4:35, 7:10, 9:45 ■Thor: The Dark World (PG-13) 2:10, 6:10, 10:15 ■Dallas Buyers Club (R) 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

(773) 871-6604 ■Faust (NR) 2:00, 5:00, 8:00 It's a Wonderful Life (PG) 3:35, 9:45 ■White Christmas (NR) 6:40

THE PATIO THEATER

6008 W. Irving Park Road (773) 685-4291





#### 'Some Velvet Morning' star Alice Eve separates damage from pleasure

#### By Matt Pals | REDEYE

Asked whether she likes "Pretty Woman," Alice Eve answers with an enthusiastic, "Of course!" The English actress defends the "classic film of my childhood" as a fairy tale and quotes in a New York accent, "Who are you, Cinder-[bleepin']-rella?"

She agrees, though, that "Some Velvet Morning," opening Friday, could be seen as a more realistic "Pretty Woman." Fred (Stanley Tucci) tells Velvet (Eve), a prostitute who also is his former mistress, that he has finally left his wife and wants to be with her. "The problem is, the reality of the situation is that let's say Fred did have the best intentions like Richard Gere. Velvet is too damaged to be able to sustain a normal life," the 31-year-old Eve ("Star Trek Into Darkness," "Men in Black 3") says from New York. "And that does happen. You go to the point of no return. You go till you're beyond saving, till normality and beauty and happily ever after is no longer of interest. Because the only way you can feel is by damaging."

The fascinating, unpredictable film is a clear return to the days when writer-director Neil LaBute was making highly discussable portraits of human vulnerability and cruelty like "In the Company of Men" and "Your Friends and Neighbors."

#### There's so much history that has to be built between Fred and Velvet. How daunting and/or difficult is it to build that as an actress?

Well, it's daunting. I suppose, if you consider it. If you just jump in and go for it, then it's less daunting. I think you realize the toll it's taken after the fact. I think after you've done it is when you realize that it maybe cost you something.

#### How did you realize it in this case?

I think I felt vulnerable, and I felt like I had been through something, undergone an experience. At the time, you go through it and you're excited and it's creative and it is fulfilling, incredibly fulfilling artistically to work with people like Stanley and Neil and material like this, to imagine the minds of other people who are in complex and difficult situations. But I think after that you then go, "Oh, actually some of that penetrated. Some of that went in and I felt it. And then that hurt."

A lot of times people say if you're a guest somewhere you should leave the place in better condition than when you arrived. The film made me think about how people often don't do that with each other.

No, they don't do that, what you said there. That's stupid, isn't it? ... I think [people's] first inclination is to love with a complete abandon and innocence, and then that goes wrong and from there on out it's a gray area, and everyone's doing their best in a set of blurred lines.

#### Oh, interesting. I see what you mean because when something bad has happened to you, you have to look out for yourself moving forward a little bit.

Sure, and you stop seeing things so clearly. But the other love, the first love, is selfless. You love and you don't know what it means; you just know that you love that person and you cherish them, and then if that goes wrong, you're probably working at a deficit, both of you, [regardless of who] ended it.

### Why do you think movies have such an inclination to romanticize prostitution in a way this movie does not?

Well, movies tend to romanticize everything because it's digestible. Just like we put syrup on our pancakes. This one doesn't because Neil's a realist, as am I, and it is what it is. And the gray area is the blackand-white because the gray is what we live in. So ugly or not, it is what it is. Movies are linked with commerce as well, so if you romanticize something, it's more commercially viable.

#### Next time I see a movie, I'm going to picture myself eating pancakes, as if it's the same thing.

{Laughs} Well, they're not dissimilar.

#### They're not?

Well, no, it's an enjoyable experience. It's one of the pleasures. What else do you do with your Sunday? A walk in the park, eat pancakes, watch a movie, read the papers. It's one of the pleasure activities.

#### So if someone eats pancakes while watching a movie, that's just mind-blowing. Greedy!

# With "Star Trek," "Men in Black," "Sex and the City" and to a degree "Entourage," you've joined a number of franchises already in motion. If there was a franchise that was going to start and be built around you, what would you want it to be?

I actually know the answer to that question. It's the story of Agatha Christie.

### Is that because everyone's been asking you that, or you just think about Agatha Christie a lot?

I just actually know that question. I just know the answer to that question. I've never been asked it before.

#### movies



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## The vicious art of love and deception

Matt Pais

» mpais @tribune.con » @mattpais Many years before his remakes captured Nicolas Cage screaming about honey ("The Wicker Man") and revisited a comedy that shouldn't have been made

the first time ("Death at a Funeral"), Neil LaBute was a wickedly perceptive student of controversial behavior. With the unofficial trilogy of "In the Company of Men," "Your Friends and Neighbors" and "The Shape of Things," the writer-director looked selfish, unhinged people in the eye and won the staring contest. Those movies dare to create loathsome characters and ask who will admit to understanding where they're coming from.

Finally—at least in terms of the big screen; LaBute's extremely active in theater—that fearless social analyst returns in "Some Velvet Morning," a two-character piece that finds Stanley Tucci ("The Hunger Games: Catching Fire") and Alice Eve ("Star Trek Into Darkness") brilliantly rising to the challenges of delicately drawn characters. The whole thing takes place in the home of Velvet (Eve), who opens the door to find Fred (Tucci), who has left his wife of 24 years and wants to make up for time apart from his former mistress. Velvet's not into it; she has lunch plans with Fred's son and, sheesh, couldn't he have



**Some Velvet Morning** 

called first to make sure his feelings weren't a one-way street? He grows cruel and resentful; she begins bargaining to see what it will take for the guy to table this discussion.

As always in a LaBute relationship saga, things grow dark and stormy in an unexpected and revealing fashion. It's difficult to say much without giving away too much, so let's leave it at this: "Some Velvet Morning" is about the elaborate games people play and the condition we leave others in when we finish with them. How do you know what's too far if you never toe the line, and how do you stop from losing control when you get there? Who really gets to determine what's safe and acceptable—lovers, family, society or ourselves?

LaBute plays a dangerous game of power and possessiveness in a bit of a vacuum. Some may not buy the trust "Some Velvet Morning" requires or tolerate its intimate, disturbing questions. Those who do will think about the difficulty of capturing/recapturing magic and the wild actions motivated by love, lust and need. You'll want to watch the film again immediately, and it will rattle around in your head for hours. If not longer.



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3358 N Sheffield, Chicago, IL www.redmondsalehouse.com

Friday House Party \$20 Meal Package \*3 drinks per hour, per customer\*

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#### movies

### 13 underrated movies this year





#### Carrie



What we said: "Not just the best horror in ages but a remarkably astute teen drama."

#### Only God Forgives



What we said: "A horror story about the hideous things people say and do and the cyclical nature of revenge that would be comical if the actions weren't so difficult to watch."

#### Pacific Rim



What we said:

rare beast, a movie that demands you get out of the house and see it on the biggest screen possible."

#### About Time



What we said: "That sensation, one that the movies rarely elicit anymore, is your heart tingling."

#### Spring Breakers

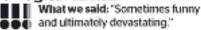


What we said: "Unexpectedly great ... (director Harmony) Korine hasn't just tapped into the youthful, throb-

bing pulse of the party-he's analyzed the dash between the wub-wub."



#### Crystal Fairy and the Magical Cactus



#### The Call



said: "Just the kind of white-knuck le junk you want it to



#### White House Down



What we said: "The good kind of

#### 2 Guns



What we said: "This is what a star vehicle should be: a well-written project that works without the big names but shines with them."

#### The Hangover: Part III



What we said: "Capitalizes on the comic skills of its cast, who have all come a long way as movie stars and onscreen partners."

#### Homefront

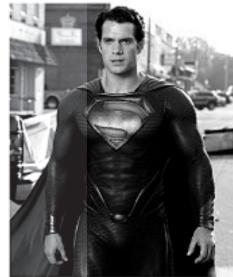


What we said: "Good, straightforward action."

#### Man of Steel



What we said: "Big and strong."





#### **EPIC**







What

surprise is looking for a place to belong while ultimately having to look out for No. 1. And I don't mean that in the spiri-

tual sense."

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### brokesters

MODERN INTELLIGENCE FOR A MEAN ECONOMY

# THE STUDENT LOAN WATCHNEN



YOUNG MONEY

#### Megan Crepeau

tribune.com

The federal Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, a government agency tasked with overseeing consumer issues, this

month issued a new rule granting itself oversight over certain student loan servicers. What exactly does that mean? Let's break it down.

#### So, this is about banks?

Not really. This is about the institutions that service student loans—the people who send you statements and collect your money. Middlemen, basically.

#### OK, so does this apply to my specific servicer(s)?

Probably! The CFPB isn't naming names at the moment, but nonbank servicers that have more than r million borrower accounts will be subject to the rule. The Washington Post reported that we can safely guess it will be overseeing Sallie Mae, Great Lakes, Nelnet and a few others. All in all, according to the CFPB, that accounts for about 70 percent of nonbank student loan servicing.

#### What exactly is in this rule?

The rule itself just gives the CFPB power to supervise these servicers and make sure nothing shady is going on. The bureau says it has gotten complaints about errors when people try to prepay, errors regarding partial payments and confusion when loans are transferred to new servicers. Activists have called these practices deceptive and even abusive. Now these servicers have a supervisor.

#### Really? Nobody was already doing that?

I guess not? Apparently, until this new rule, the CFPB could oversee big banks that service student loans; this applies to big servicers that are not banks.

#### So is this actually going to change anything, or is this all iust for show?

It may be too early to tell. Sallie Mae, for its part, told investors in the fall that it was under investigation by the CFPB. I can't imagine they're big fans of that.

#### OK. So what do I do if I feel like my student loan servicer is screwing me over?

The CFPB has a website where you can submit a complaint: consumerfinance. gov/students. My fingers are crossed for you. MEGAN CREPEAUIS A REDEVE COPYEDITOR TRYINGSO HARD TO GET HER MONEY STUFF TOGETHER.





#### Target security breach hits up to 40M cards

#### Reuters

Target Corp. said hackers have stolen data from up to 40 million credit and debit cards of shoppers who visited its stores during the first three weeks of the boliday season in the second-largest such breach reported by a U.S. retailer.

In terms of the speed at which the hackers were able to access large numbers of credit cards, the data theft was unprecedented. The operation was carried out over just 19 days during the heart of the crucial Christmas holiday sales season: from the day before Thanksgiving to this past Sunday.

Target, the third-largest American retailer, said Thursday that it was working with federal law enforcement and outside experts to prevent similar attacks in the future. It did not disclose how its systems were compromised.

Target did not detect the attack on its own, according to a person familiar with the investigation.

The retailer uncovered the breach after it was alerted its systems might have been compromised by credit card processors who had noticed a surge in fraudulent transactions involving credit cards that had been used at Target, according to the source.

For Target, the timing of the breach could not have been worse, coming just before three of the four busiest days of what has been a bruising holiday season for retailers, with the highest level of discounting in years. Target itself last month lowered its profit forecast for the year after disappointing sales in the third quarter.

Complaints from customers began to surface on social media as they learned of it early Thursday morning.

"Most of these attacks are just a cost of doing business," said Mark Rasch, a former U.S. prosecutor of cyber crimes. "But an attack that's targeted against a major retailer during the peak of the Christmas season is much more than that because it undermines confidence." Check out our other venues for more great New Year's Eve parties!

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#### Sizing up One Off Hospitality's Gold Coast dazzler

Nico

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE She didn't like her name. Herbert Tobias, the photographer who discovered her, agreed. \*Christa Paffgen" was guttural, in-Osteria elegant, a moniker certainly 1015 N. Rush St. not befitting the sharp beau-312-994-7100 ty of the woman before him, the one with blunt bangs, sad Heating up eyes and cheekbones so high they seemed sprung from the edges of her forehead. One of the first of the modern supermodels would from then on be known as Nico, a homage to Tobias' former lover, Greek film director Nikos Papatakis.

That was 1954. Nico became the prototype for models like Kate Moss and Gisele Bundchen, the epicenter of Andy Warhol's The Factory, the chanteuse of Lou Reed and John Cale's band The Velvet Underground

and a darling of the '60s.

In 2013, Chicago has its own darling, a culinary one: One Off Hospitality, whose partners include chef Paul Kahan, Donnie Madia, Terry Alexander, Rick Diarmit and Eduard Seitan. They launched Blackbird, Avec, The Publican, Publican Quality Meats, The Violet Hour and Big Star. Their ideas were all hits.

Their latest venture was a chic osteria serving simple clean Italian seafood, but it needed a proper name.

"We played around with many Italian words, but they were too hard to pronounce," Madia said. While paging through a book about Andy Warhol, he stumbled on photos of Nico. "There she was ... this beautiful creature, perfect!"

#### I'll Be Your Mirror

When Blackbird opened in 1997, the section of Randolph Street on which it was located was not the restaurant row it has become. It was a gritty conveyance from the Loop to the Kennedy. Most of the locations that Madia, Kahan and company chose, whether it was Avec next door or Publican in the middle of the meatpacking district, were always a little edgy. The food was so good, the spaces so cool, that the fanciest of Gold Coasters were pulled from their graystones to try them. In the early days, the guys behind One Off Hospitality didn't go to the mainstream. It came to them.

Nico is a reversal of that. It's still original; unless your nonna went to culinary school, few things on its menu would be recognizable from her dinner table. But with Nico, One Off has gone to the folks they once drew toward themselves. They have settled in at the base of the swank Thompson Chicago hotel in the Viagra Triangle, right across from Gibson's steakhouse. On my way to Nico, I passed four Lamborghinis, a million dollars worth of cars

parked right up the street. A nearby table was stocked with bro-llionares roaring in united laughter about stock trading gone awry. Goldbangled and wrap-dress-clad cougars were on the prowl.

#### Femme Fatale

Nico is, like so much of its clientele, lavish. The bar and dining room is a showy, mesmerizing knockout with a tin ceiling, towering live plant wall, convex porthole-like mirrors and tufted velvet sofas. Everything about Nico, as "Swingers"-era Vince Vaughn used to say, is 'money." You can just drop in for the party, but if you have a marriage proposal, a promotion to celebrate or a date to impress, Nico will shine as a backdrop.

#### I'm Waiting for the Man

Given that kind of pomp, you'd expect the service to shine. Instead, at times the place felt understaffed. My friend and I sat for 10 minutes before our server appeared with menus. When I finished my excellent Mas-





# RESERVATION TIP

After just a few weeks open, reservations at Nico are already hard to come by. Try the first-come, first-served lounge area if you're not able to snag a table in the dining room.

simo cocktail (\$12) featuring grape-y grappa and white wine-toned pistachio syrup shaken and served over crushed ice (Matty Eggleston, formerly of Perennial Virant and Bar De Ville, heads up the bar program), the glass sat empty while I ate two courses. I couldn't find our server, so I had to hail another for the wine list.

Despite the waiting, the service at Nico seemed primed to deliver. Madia appeared midway through the night, wearing a blazer and 1980s-worthy ripped acid-wash jeans, and glad-handed at nearby tables. I appreciated that food runners switched out silverware and plates with every course, which was crucial given the family-style service and the potential to mix flavors and sauces from each of the dishes we ordered.

### Heroin

As Lou Reed of The Velvet Underground sang, "First thing you learn is you always gotta wait ... He's got the works, gives you sweet taste." Kahan's food has always been my drug of choice. I was fine enduring the M.I.A. servers

to get a taste of it.

At Nico, Kahan collaborates with chef de cuisine Erling Wu-Bower, who has worked his whole career with One Off (Avec, Publican). Wu-Bower is killing it. The opening menu has almost 50 dishes split into six main areas: crudo (raw or lightly cured fish), fettunta (bruschetta), antipasti (salads and small plates), pasta, piatti (large plates) and contorni (vegetable sides). Parties of two who choose one plate from four of the six sections and share a dessert will be plenty full.

My favorite dish was puree of fava bean flavored with bottarga (salted cured fish roe) topped with a crisp salad of fennel, radish and briny sweet dungeness crab adorned with wispy thin crackers that looked like the billowing spinnakers of a yacht (\$18). Spiedini (\$17), or skewers of grilled smoky sweetbreads enrobed in sweet and salty slices of pancetta and topped with thick, meaty slices of sauteed royal trumpet mushrooms, were like addictive, savory bonbons. My friend and I threw them back with abandon, racing to see who could eat the most before we ran out.

The dish that was closest to what your Italian grandmother might serve was the Neapolitan-style ragu (\$18 per person). A red lacy-patterned trivet was set on the table, and a pot bubbling with an Italian red sauce gravy was placed on top. In the middle of the gravy was a tender hunk of braised pork belly, a juicy golf ball-sized swordfish meatball and a fried square of risotto. The sauce, which had a hint of sweetness, a bit of spice and a meaty richness, was deeply comforting. I scraped every last remaining drop up with a spoon (I wish the kitchen served up a side of bread for sopping up leftovers) once the meatball, pork belly and fried risotto had disappeared.

### **There She Goes Again**

Pastry chef Amanda Rockman picked up where she left off at previous post Balena, serving hand-crafted gelatos and complex well-crafted desserts at Nico. I especially liked the creamy burnt honey gelato (\$3) garnished with a lacy pizelle cookie. If you're tired of the gloppy bricks of tiramisu served at most Italian restaurants, you'll love Rockman's

version (\$11), a shooter filled with white coffee cream (coffee that's cold-infused so the cream doesn't pick up any bitterness or color), marsala wine-spiked mousse, a crispy crunchy layer of aged ladyfinger bits and a creamy Valrhona milk chocolate cremeux (a custard that has a texture somewhere between a pudding and a mousse).

### It Was a Pleasure Then

From Blackbird to Big Star, One Off Hospitality has put out a series of spectacular restaurants. Nico, which has impeccable seafood and clean, light flavors, just might just be the most elegant and the biggest hit yet. The cozy kitchen counter seating and L-shaped layout of the dining room provides an intimate experience that falls somewhere between the claustrophobia of Blackbird and the expansiveness of The Publican. Whatever your occasion, it is the place you should celebrate all of tomorrow's parties.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.
REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEEATDRINK.

# Ckychetti

# Cicchetti 671 N. St. Clay St. 312-642-1800 This small plates Mediterranean spot in the Gold Coast opened earlier this week with a dynamic duo of chefs: Mike Sheerin (formerly of Trenchermen and Blackbird) and pastry chef Sarah Jordan (formerly of BOKA and GT Fish & Oyster). Expect lunch and dinner menus to include Venetian-style dishes prepared with Midwest ingredients.

# **HOT RIGHT NOW**

5 SPOTS TO KEEP ON YOUR WEEKEND RADAR



Blaze Pizza 953 W. Belmont Ave. 773-348-6255
Think of a Chipotle-style setup... but for pizza. That's the idea at this new Lakeview country condenses the first Chicago baseline for the L. A. based impact. Pice basis with an

ter-service spot, the first Chicago location for the L.A.-based import. Pies begin with an 11-inch crust plus your choice of more than 40 sauces, vegetables, meats and cheeses, and are ready after just three minutes in the oven.

# **Parts and Labor**

2700 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-360-7840

The team behind bar and pizzeria Boiler Room on Thursday delivered another Logan Square spot, this time serving griddle burgers in place of slices. Never fear, though: Boiler Room's popular PB&J combo (pizza slice, beer and shot of Jameson) is reincarnated here as a \$10 deal that includes a burger, side dish and shot or beer.

### Analogue

2523 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-904-8567

Two veteran bartenders from The Violet Hour team up to open a new Logan Square bar with a New Orleans-inspired food menu. Expect a short, focused cocktail list—which includes two beerand-bitters drinks called purls—as well as a DJ booth and dance floor.

### The Brixton

5420 N. Clark St. 773-961-7358

It's been a revolving door for restaurants at this Andersonville address—Brasserie 54, In Fine Spirits, Premise—but The Brixton, which opened last week, hopes its menu of cocktails, wine, bar bites, small plates and larger entrees, including a burger, hanger steak and salmon, endear it to the neighborhood.

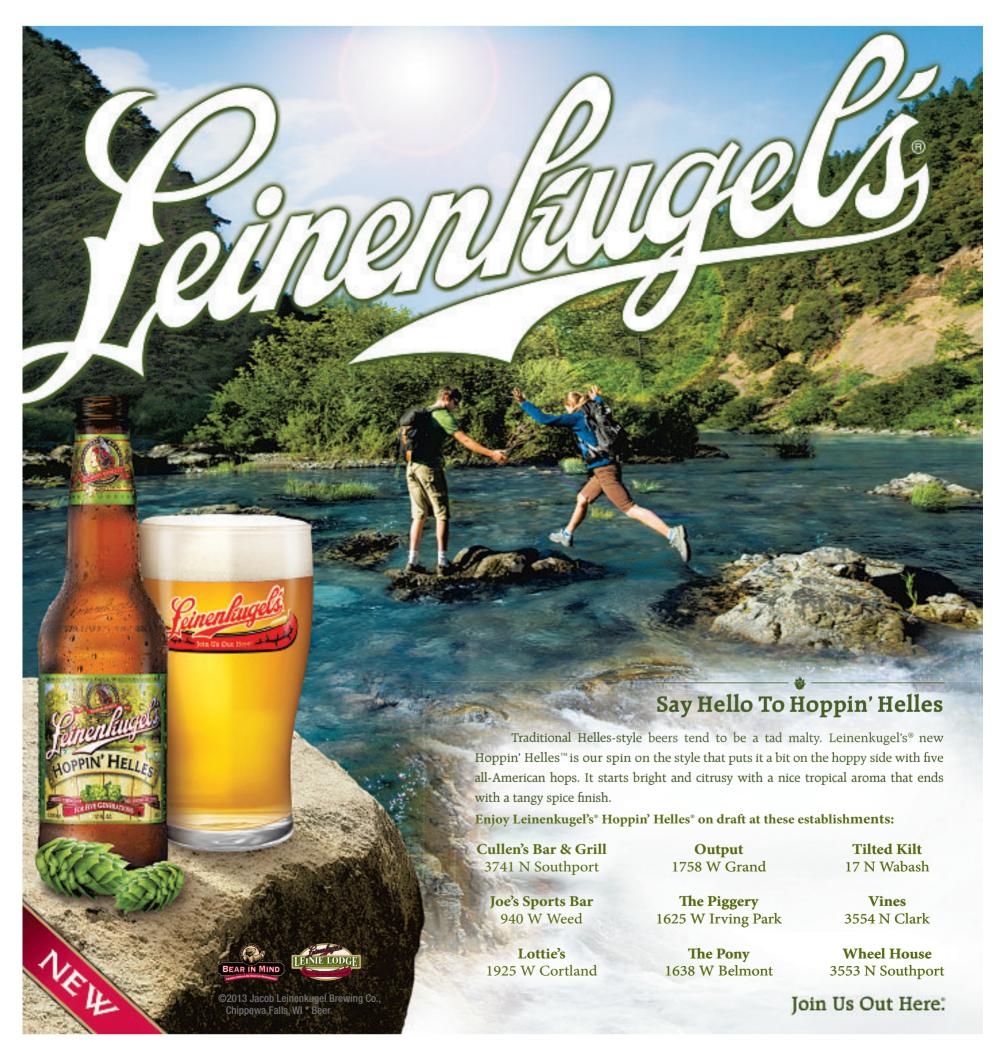
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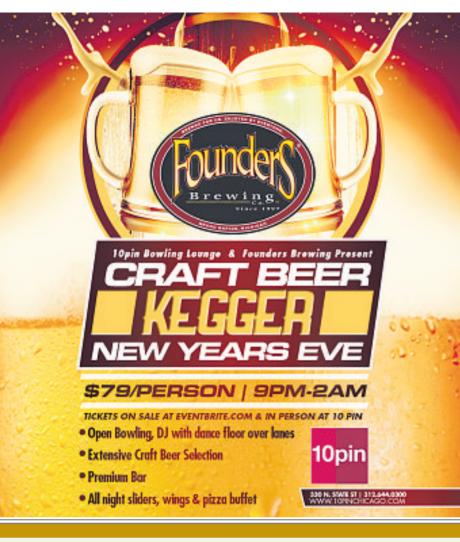


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# eat&drink



# **RESTAURANT WEEK**

# **2014 RESERVATIONS NOW OPEN ONLINE**

By Kate Bernot | REDEYE

It's the most wonderful time of the year. No, no, not the holidays—the start of online reservations for Chicago Restaurant Week 2014, which runs Jan. 24 until Feb. 6. (Your math isn't wrong, that's actually 14 days.)

The annual celebration of eating-atfancy-pants-places-your-broke-selfcan't-afford-the-rest-of- the-year adds new spots this year, including Beatrix, CH Distillery, Stella Barra Pizzeria,

The Boarding House, The Refinery, Siena Tavern and others, totalling 250 participating restaurants. Prix-fixe menus begin at \$22 for lunch and \$33-\$44 for dinner.

The Restaurant Week website, eatitupchicago.com, displays the full list of restaurants along with a searchby-neighborhood feature, menus and directions for making online reservations.

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# **BarkBox**

### Dear Santa Paws

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Thank you Santa Paws.

Rue Frida

Know a peop that's been good this year?





# 'Duck Dynasty' star's suspension outrages fans

## **Los Angeles Times**

The day after "Duck Dynasty" star Phil Robertson was suspended from the hit A&E reality series, fans and nonfans of the series took to social media to either express their outrage at A&E for removing Robertson from the show or for airing the show in the first place.

Robertson was put on an indefinite filming hiatus after the publication of an interview in the January issue of GQ magazine in which he made controversial remarks about gay people and civil rights that drew heat from GLAAD, among others.

Whether they were fans of the show or not, many conservative Christians took great offense that Robertson was removed from the show for expressing his beliefs.

New York Times political reporter Nick Confessore took note that all the discussion of Robertson's thoughts on gay people was overshadowing his positive remembrance of the Jim Crow South. "Phil Robertson lucked out: The furor over his comments on gays is overshadowing his comments on black people."

Self-described independent Baptist and Reagan conservative Pam Besteder tweeted, "Whenever culture disagrees with the Word of God—CULTURE is wrong—not God. God is ALWAYS RIGHT!"

Clay Guerry of Myrtle Beach, S.C., seems to think Robertson's thoughts were par for the

course, tweeting, "If you watch a show about rednecks being rednecks, eventually they will say something a bigot would say."

Kyle Collins, a student from Akron, Ohio, took a more down-the-middle stance, tweeting, "Don't necessarily agree with #PhilRobertson comments. But I still love #DuckDynasty. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions."

Never one to shy away from controversy, CNN host Piers Morgan tweeted, "Phil Robertson is not a 'victim of political correctness'. He's a victim of his own repulsively racist, homophobic bigotry."

While the hashtag **#StandWithPhil** became a thing, the "Duck Dynasty" stars also found support in the form of an offer from Glenn Beck to bring their show to his own network, the Blaze.

"We would be proud to have you," Beck said Thursday on his online TV network.

Several online petitions have been started to show support for the "Duck Dynasty" star, including one on **change.org** that has amassed more than 65,000 signatures and a website, **IStandWithPhil.com**, which has gathered more than 80,000 signatures.

The new season of "Duck Dynasty," the top-rated nonfiction show in cable history, will premiere Jan. 15. Robertson will appear in a few of the new episodes since they were already finished at the time of his suspension.









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45

# Good or what? Kanye's Wednesday show

### **By Matt Pais and Ernest Wilkins**

REDEYE SOUND BOARD

After both attending Kanye West's show at the United Center on Wednesday, we decided to do a written version of "Good or What?" Here's part of the email conversation that ensued.

**MP:** Wednesday's Kanye West show at United Center was unusual, strange, fun, unsettling, captivating and challenging all at once.

**EW:** I'm still in shock at the whole thing. I was a bit annoyed at the beginning. Splitting the show into four "acts," the Lucha Libre masks and the body stockings were a bit much. Actually, I take that back. I'm probody stocking. Did the pageantry get tiring to you at any point?

**MP:** I did think the show took a little time to get going, and I wonder how many in the crowd were expecting more of a nonstop party. Though if they were they probably haven't been paying much attention to Yeezy's material of late. It's really something to hear

thousands of people shouting, "I'd rather be a dick than a swallower," which is a brilliant (if crass) encapsulation of the Chicago-raised rapper's motto and probably a stereotype of Millennial self-interest. Do you think Kanye is, as he claims, "the scariest mother[bleeper] on Earth" because he empowers people?

EW: I have said this publicly a lot of times: Kanye West's lasting influence is that, for all the arrogance and eye rolls, he has been consistently preaching the idea of belief in self.

Here's something: "Yeezus" is West's sixth studio album. His tours are spectacular spectacles. He's beyond famous at this point. Is he the biggest Chicago act ever?

MP: Wow The biggest Chicago act ever?

**MP:** Wow. The biggest Chicago act ever? Somewhere out there Billy Corgan is shaking his fist at the sky.

But I'm inclined to agree, as long as we're talking about the modern era. Kanye has literally risen to the top of a mountain, but he maintains intriguing contradictions. I believe that his rendition of "Power" from up there was meant to be ironic and showcase the outrageousness of a person ruling from



on high; yet at the same time Kanye clearly believes that if anyone would be able to do so, it should be him. As cliche as it may sound, he's legitimately an artist rather than a mere performer. I think the time has come, Ernest. Kanye's United Center show: Good or what?

**EW:** Matt, this show was great if only because it showed that Kanye West is a dedicated performer and a legit artist once you strip away all the extra stuff. This wasn't just good,

it was GREAT. What about you?

**MP:** If that's stripping away the extra stuff, I'd love to see what the show is like with all the fixings. I think it was a little south of great simply because the theatrics did sometimes distract from the material. But it was both a powerful presentation and a bizarre visual interpretation of the land inside Kanye's mind. It's somewhere many of us would like to spend more time, though I suspect the bouncer isn't letting us in.





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# **TOP SHOWS**

REDEYE'S PICKS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S CONCERTS



### The Congregation

9 p.m. Frt. at Empty Bottle, \$10.

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### Martin Van Ruin

9 p.m. Fri. at Lincoln Hall. \$10-\$20.

The new project from RedEye Rock 'n' Vote alum Derek Nelson

### Melanie Martinez

7 p.m. Sun. at Schubas. \$15-\$40. A breakout voice from "The Voice"



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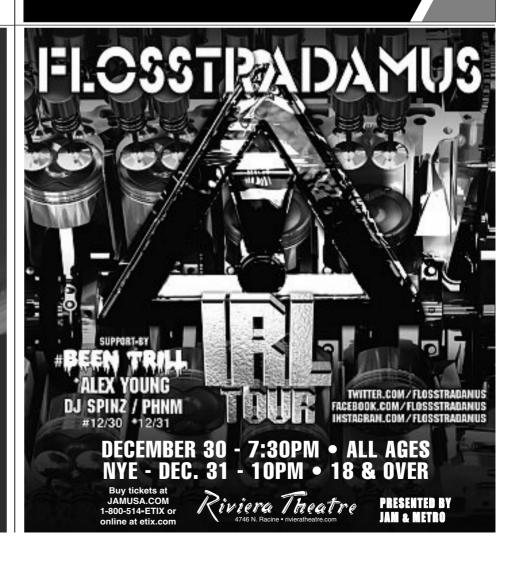
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# Quick 'n' dirty sex advice for winter



Pulley

Hello, hot stuffs! I didn't see you there through the ski mask and poofy down material covering 98 percent of your body. That must mean it's officially winter in Chicago, but don't worry, we're turning up the heat for you in this edition of quick 'n' dirty sex advice (past quickies can be read at redeye

chicago.com). Now pour yourself some Glogg, turn up your SAD lamp and settle in.

I'm a 45-year-old woman who recently realized my feelings toward women may not be entirely platonic. Am I too old to go through

#### a bisexual phase?

Hellz no. Unlike shorteralls, lovin' ladies never goes out of style. Get on that and they'll get on you.

## Short version: My girlfriend likes to cuddle a lot. I need space in order to sleep. How can I get it without hurting her feelings?

Whit, wasn't this a "Friends" episode? You'll just have to wait until the show comes on late-night TV to find the answer. Or! Cuddle compromise. Allow your girlfriend a cuddling grace period before you turn over and ignore her. If you've given her a proper orgasm, she should be asleep before you know it, and you can go about dreaming of Sears in peace.

How do I weather the awkward and inevitable: "So when are you two getting married?" "As soon as I get the Facebook notification."



My boyfriend and I have sex regularly, and I go down on him a lot. But he doesn't return the favor. Once he was down there for about 20 seconds, but that's it. How do I talk him Into being more giving?

Well, you could get all sexy-stalemate on him and stop giving him oral sex until he straightens up and flies south. But the with-holding option gives me the sads too. Tell him what your needs are—they are pretty routine, after all. It's not like you're asking him to get calf implants or install a robo-sex Jacuzzi in your bedroom. If he refuses to compromise, send him to the North Pole without a glowing-nosed caribou to guide him.

My awful six-month relationship ended last month, and the woman in question has been emailing and calling me, asking to remain friends. I can't see us being friends right now, but is a holiday hookup out of the question?

No, but I'd advise you to seek other, less awful and more emotionally distant booty calls. It hasn't been that long, you don't want to be friends and your grief is fresh. Pick a different ex or a concerned yet flirtatious friend. It's like I always say: "A friend in need is a friend in me." Happy bo-lidays!

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# trending



# Things that went viral that didn't actually suck

**By Jessica Galliart** | REDEYE Sometimes the media forces itself to "cover" things that "went viral." Like the news

of the day ... is that something ... is popular ... on the Internet. Most of the time, these things are embarrassingly

dumb and make us want to assume the fetal position and grieve for humanity, but there were a few diamonds among the turds that had lasting effect.



# The Kid Who Broke his Cymbal

This runs so deep for those of us who were ever in concert or marching band. That time [bleeping] Seth's trombone fell apart in the middle of third bar?! Ha! What a memory guys.

### The Manti Te'o Girlfriend Hoax

Arguably the most fascinating news story of the year—no, really—the Deadspin reveal of college football star Manti Te'o and the years he spent spinning lies about a faux girlfriend and the resulting downward spiral spawned a thousand memes (including "T'eoing," featuring RedEye's Ernest Wilkins, ahem). It was probably the most potent example of a massive news story (sports or not) that dominated airwaves for days, but originated from a story posted to the Web by nontraditional "media."

# **Geico's Hump Day**

Just because you're sick of it now doesn't mean it sucks. This was impossibly hilarious the first 12 or 13 times you saw it, admit it. Its popularity spawned ringtones, more videos and even a damn TOUR.

### **Unflattering Beyonce**

This is how to suck at your PR job while actually doing your PR job. Beyonce crushed her Super Bowl halftime performance. A lot. And there were a handful of, um, unflattering photos of Beyonce crushing it. Buzzfeed penned a quick post about how fierce her performance was, with a few of these photos included, and her team went to work to request they be removed. Your bad, Beyonce Power Squad. The Internet quickly went to work to 'shop the images, and a meme was born.

### **Taylor Swift Goat**

And then we were never able to listen to "Trouble" the same way again. Can you believe this has only been in our lives for less than a year? It led to many (many) more goat parodies and supercuts, none of which will ever be superior to the original, and with a seal of approval from Taylor herself.

# The Time the Obama Girls Got Caught Taking Selfies

It was during President Obama's inaugural parade, and we kindly tip our caps to them. The selfie busted 'round the world.

#### **Batkid**

You are a g'damn monster if this story didn't at least make you well up a bit. Make a Wish made a young cancer survivor's dream of becoming Batman for a day come true by transforming San Francisco into Gotham City. You know the rest—tens of thousands turned out to support, President Obama congratulated the kid on Vine—so we'd be dumb as hell to not include this one as a viral thing that didn't actually suck.







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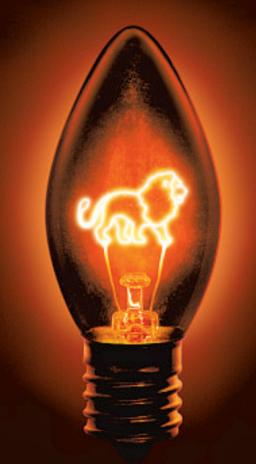


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### By Veronica Wilson | FORREDEVE

As your bank account takes its annual nosedive in the name of Christmas cheer, making your own gift tags is an easy way to both save money and turn your wrapped presents into part of your holiday decor. Learning how to make them and having the equipment stashed at home can turn you into a tag-making machine all year long, veronica wilsonic areas contribution.

# WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Medium blank tags (approximately 4 in. x 2 in.)
- 1 or 2 sheets of card stock
- » Printer
- » Google

- » X-acto knife
- » Cutting board
- Brush-on glitter paint (any color)
- » Paint palette (or paper plate)
- Sponge brush
- » Painter's tape
- "To, From" rubber stamp
- nk pad (any color)

1. Lay the tags horizontally and stamp one side with the rubber stamp. If you're confident in your own writing abilities, there's no need to buy a stamp. If your penmanship hasn't changed since kindergarten, spend the \$4. It's worth it. Once the ink dries, flip the tags over.

- 2. Try drawing out your own stencils on the card stock. Stars, bows and trees aren't too tricky. However, if that 5-year-old's writing style also translates to your drawing skills, go online and search for holiday stencils. Before printing them, make sure the stencils are small enough to fit on the tag. If they're more than 1¾ inches tall, you may have problems.
- **3.** Print the stencils onto card stock and cut the centers out using your X-acto knife. Set aside the pieces you cut out, and separate each stencil.
- **4.** Keeping your tags horizontal, use the painter's tape to attach one stencil to each tag. Unless you cut out extra stencils, you'll have to do a few at a time.

- 5. Put some paint on the palette and dip your sponge brush into the paint. Lightly dab the brush over the stencils and onto the tags. With some types of glitter paint, you'll have to add quite a lot of paint. Just be sure you don't overdo it, as the paint could seep under the stencil and make a mess of your intended shape.
- 6. Carefully pull the stencils off the tags, admire your beautiful shapes and let them dry completely. Repeat steps 4-6 until you've used up all the tags.
- 7. Once they are all dry, you can write names on the label. Tie them to your gifts with ribbon or string.
- TIP: These tags can easily be customized by changing the paint color or the stencil shape. Try a balloon one for a birthday gift or a little house tag for a housewarming present.

While the tags are only around \$3 dollars for 20 at a craft store, you can be extra thrifty by cutting your own tags out of card stock and punching a hole through them.



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### **TODAY IN THE YEAR...**

1946: The Frank Capra film "It's A Wonderful Life" had a preview showing for charity at New York City's Globe Theatre, a day before its official world premiere.

1976: Chicago Mayor Richard J. Daley died of a heart attack in his doctor's office; he was 74.

1999: The Vermont Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples were entitled to the same benefits and protections as wedded couples.

- ACROSS
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### By Dana Moran | REDEYE

You know what everyone needs? Another Peter Pan movie. (Lie. That is why we have "Hook.") But apparently someone with a few doubloons to throw around thinks its a good idea because "Pan" is happening over at Warner Bros. The origin story originally was set to star Javier Bardem as the pirate Blackbeard, but now Hugh Jackman is rumored to be in the running for the part, **variety.com** reports. Hold up, mateys. Both of these guys shiver our timbers, but who's the most piratey? We took to a RedEye faceoff to find out. **DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM** | @REDEYEDANA



Dinner

**HUGH:** It's like his torso was made for this. Have you seen "Les Mis"? (No? Then DON'T.)





**JAVIER:** As a Spaniard, it's kind of in his blood from the Christopher Columbus days.

WINNER: JAVIER. Although Columbus also was involved with some pretty nasty disease spreading, so ...

Wolverine's hands are swords.

He is carrying six swords
at all times.



Well, we've seen him toting around a gun far more often, but we could potentially see him in a Zorro movie. Hey, wait a sec ...

WINNER: HUGH. What more do you people need than six swords?







"No Country For Old Men" 'basically made us pee our pants. "Skyfall" only slightly less so.

WINNER: JAVIER. While he may frequently have stupid hair, there's no denying that he's also terrifying.

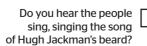






No.

WINNER: TIE. Parrots poop a lot and bite like the dickens.







A little weird without at least some level of scruff, like he's a suuuuuuper creepy Bond villain or something.

WINNER: JAVIER. No, really, hide this man's razors.



JAVIER. And parrots. Incidentally, in a game of "Would you rather?" we'd also pick Javier. It's a Spanish thing.





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That's how much 'Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues" earned in the box office Wednesday, thr.com reports. It's estimated to open in the \$40 million to \$45 million rangewhich might sound underwhelming. but consider that the first movie made ONLY \$85 million in its entire run, according to boxofficemojo.com.



# The better to strangle you with, my dear

Of all the rumors about her, there's one that Sarah Jessica Parker-REALLY doesn't appreciate: a tabloid report that she wanted plastic surgery to fix her "witch's hands." "Literally, I was in the car like dizzy," she told Andy Cohen on "Watch What Happens Live." "I felt like I needed to be hospitalized." SJP then said she loves her hands because she inherited them from her mother and would never change them.



HOT DATE

**ALLIWANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS** 

Unfortunately for Snooki, her present from JWoww won't fit under the Christmas tree. "She bought me a boob job for Christmas," Snooki told MTV News. "I didn't get them yet, clearly." She'd better be getting JWoww an appropriate gift in return—perhaps a home tanning bed?



### Meet the parents

H 31 That's when the final episode of "How I Met Your Mother" will air as a one-hour special edition, CBS announced Thursday. That's well ahead of the May sweeps

season, which we assume means that "HIMYM" finally figured out it was just time to go away as soon as possible.

Ben Stiller talked to Parade magazine about proposing to now-wife Christine Taylor while he was rehearsing "Meet the Parents," and it was more than a slightly nerve-wracking situation. "Christine's father is an intimidating guy who owns a security company; we're good friends now, but at the time I was in the basement rec room saying. Treally would like to marry your daughter," he said. Good thing he went with the classy move.

She carried herself in a very specific way to keep us within an R rating. Amy has amaz-

-"American Hustle" costume designer Michael Wilkinson, to The Hollywood Reporter, on how Amy Adams managed to avoid popping out of her wildly revealing wardrobe. The movie opens Friday.

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